# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:326
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
DEATH DUE TO ANTHRAX
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether some cases of suspected anthrax deaths were reported recently from certain parts of country as reported in The Hindu dated February 09, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Union Government has provided any assistance to such States to control the disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Hindu dated 9th February 2008 had reported four suspected anthrax deaths from Koraput district of Orissa and five cases of cutaneous Anthrax from Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.
As per the report of a Central team that visited Orissa during 11-13th February 2008 to investigate the episode of suspected Anthrax, a total of 19 cases and 4 deaths were reported during January and February, 2008 in Semiliguda block of Koraput district.As per the information obtained from the Directorate of Health Services, Andhra Pradesh, five cases of Cutaneous Anthrax were reported from Karvetinagar Mandal of Chittoor district (A.P.) around 10th January 2008. The Health and Veterinary departments took prompt action and the situation was brought under control.

(c) & (d) A central team from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, a subordinate office under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, visited the affected area to carry out the detailed investigations and to suggest control measures. The major recommendations made are as follows:
a. All unexplained livestock deaths or suspected animal cases must be investigated.

b. After confirmation as being a case of anthrax, the carcasses should not be opened and should be disposed off as per the guidelines for disposal of anthrax carcasses.

c. Blood from the dead animal should be collected aseptically for confirmation of diagnosis. Necropsy, which has the risk of spreading infection, should not be done.

d. The soil seeded by carcasses must be decontaminated.

e. Adequate treatment to be given to the patients after admitting them in hospital.

f. Asymptomatic exposed individuals (who have handled the dead animal) should be put on a four weeks course of Doxycycline 100 mg twice daily or Ciprofloxacine 500 mg twice daily.

g. All the domestic animals of endemic blocks should be vaccinated annually (preferably in the month of November) using Anthrax Spore Vaccine. The vaccination should be continued for the minimum of 5 years.

h. Education to general public regarding not to butcher and eat meat from dead animals should be imparted.
The guidelines developed by NICD in collaboration with WHO, on Prevention and Control of Anthrax have been circulated to all endemic states.